

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-04 SAB-01 DRC-01 /059 W

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R 151500Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4202

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5848

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: DAYAN ESCALATES POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER
WEST BANK POLICY

REF: TEL AVIV 5835

1. SUMMARY: POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER FUTURE OF WEST BANK HAS BEEN SHARPLY ESCALATED BY SIGNING OF OPPOSITION LIKUD PETITION BY MOSHE DAYAN AND THREE OTHER LABOR PARTY KNESSET MEMBERS OPPOSING RETURN OF JUDEA DND SAMARIA TO "FOREIGN RULE", AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED DAYAN STATEMENT OCT 14 IN SUPPORT OF HIS ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EXPLAINING HIS SIGNATURE OF LIKUD PETITION WHICH WAS ORGANIZED FOLLOWING ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS BY EMUNIM BLOC LAST WEEK, DAYAN STATED IN TV INTERVIEW THAT LIKUD PETITION DID NOT CONTRADICT LABOR PARTY'S ELECTION PLATFORM. HE SAID HE AGREED WITH CONTENT OF PETITION AND BELIEVE HIS VIEW SHOULD BE SAID PUBLICLY. DAYAN CONTINUED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT
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PARLIAMENTARY MOTION-- IF TABLED-- CALLING ON KNESSET TO ENSURE

THAT JUDEA AND SAMARIA WERE NO HANDED OVER TO JORDAN OR THE PALESTINIANS. HE OPPOSED ANY TERRITORIAL PARTITION OF THE WEST BANK AND ANY ARRANGEMENT PREVENTING JEWS FROM SETTLING ANYWHERE IN SAMARIA OR JUDEA. DAYAN STRESSED THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE ANY ARRANGEMENT OBLIGING THE IDF TO LEAVE JUDEA AND SAMARIA OR ANY SITES THERE WHICH IT FEELS IT SHOULD OCCUPY. IN COMMENT OPPOSING ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS OF GUSH EMUNIM, DAYAN SAID THAT ISSUE OF SETTLEMENTS SHOULD BE DECIDED IN ELECTIONS AND IN KNESSET. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT GOVT ITSELF COULD CAST DOUBT ON JEWISH RIGHTS TO JUDEA AND SAMARIA BY PREVENTING SETTLEMENT OR LAND PURCHASES.

3. SOME KNESSET LABOR PARTY MEMBERS, LED BY YOSHI SARID, CURRENTLY ARE ATTEMPTING TO SCHEDULE DEBATE IN PARTY FORUM OVER ACTION OF DAYAN AND OTHER EX-RAFI MEMBERS (DAVID KOREN, MORDECHAI BEN-PORAT, AND MATILDA GHEZ). SENIOR LABOR PARTY LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION WITH DAYAN.

4. COMMENT: IN OPENLY CHALLENGING RABIN POSITION OF TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN WEST BANK IN RETURN FOR NON-BELLIGERENCY AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN, DAYAN HAS ESCALATED CONTROVERSY WITHIN LABOR PARTY OVER WEST BANK, AND HAS CAUSED GROWING CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE RIFT BETWEEN HARD-LINE EX-RAFI FACTION AND MAJOR ELEMENTS OF LABOR PARTY LED BY RABIN, FAVORING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. WHILE ELEMENTS IN LIKUD OPPOSE HARD-LINE POSITION AGAINST RETURN OF WEST BANK UNDER ANY CONDITIONS, DAYAN'S MOVE IS CERTAIN TO ENCOURAGE EFFORTS IN LIKUD AND NRP TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT IN KNESSET DEBATE ON WEST BANK TO BE SCHEDULED IN NEAR FUTURE FOR STATEMENT PLACING RESTRAINTS ON TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO JORDAN IN ABSENCE OF PEACE AGREEMENT.

5. IN PUBLICLY STATING HIS VIEWS ON WEST BANK WHILE COALITION TALKS ARE IN PROCESS, DAYAN ALSO HAS STRENGTHENED POSITION OF NRP ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO JOINING GOVT COALITION, DESPITE RABIN'S ASSURANCES THAT NO AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN INVOLVING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WILL BE CONCLUDED PRIOR TO NATIONAL ELECTION.

6. IN POLITICAL FERMENTATION THAT IS TAKING PLACE FOLLOWING
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DEVELOPMENTS OF PAST WEEK, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT PRECISELY JUST WHAT RELIGNMENT OF POLITICAL FORCES, IF ANY, MAY EMERGE. HOWEVER, EMOTIONAL AND POLITICAL PASSIONS AROUSED BY WEST BANK ISSUE SUGGEST WHAT A DIFFICULT PATH LIES AHEAD FOR RABIN. KNESSET WINTER SESSION OPENS OCT 21, BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHEN DEBATE ON WEST BANK POLICY WILL TAKE PLACE.
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